

The Peter Wolfe House
Hilltop Road
Borough of Mendham,
Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-623

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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14-MEND.
5.

The Peter Wolfe House,
Hilltop Road (Church St.) below County Road No. 9,
Borough of Mendham,
Morris County, New Jersey

Owners and occupants: Mr. and Mrs. James F. Richards, Jr.

Date of Erection: Circa 1815

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Peter Wolfe (owner of lot from 1813 to 1896)

Present Condition: Good - with modern additions to
northwest corner.

Number of Stories: Two, and garret and cellar, with
one story kitchen rear wing.

Material of Construction:

Foundation: stone Masonry

Exterior walls: Timber frame, shingled

Interior walls: Lath and plaster on studding

Chimneys: Brick, built into inside of gable and walls.

Roof: Gambrel; modern metal roofing.

Historical Data:

By a deed of 14 January 1807, Abraham Howell and wife Abigail, of Mendham Township, Morris County, conveyed to Ebenezer Drake of the same place for \$359.33 a 4.13 acre corner lot of land and premises described therein as extending some 316 feet along the southern side of the road from "Morristown to Chester" and 640 feet southward along the west side of "the road to Mendham Meeting House." These roads became the Washington Turnpike and Church Street, respectively, and are now Main Street and Hilltop Road in the Borough of Mendham.

Ebenezer Drake the grantee above said, with wife Mary, being still of Mendham, conveyed the property to John Rolston of the same place, for \$250 on 9 February 1811, and Rolston and wife Margaret in turn passed it to John Humes of Mendham for \$475 by their deed of 18 March 1811. From this

lot Humes and wife sold a half acre, having a frontage of 92 feet on Church Street and a depth of 328 feet, to Peter Wolfe of Randolph Township for \$85 by deed of 20 December 1813. Subsequently, by a deed of 15 June 1837, Joseph Groff and wife Sarah conveyed to Wolfe a triangular 3/100 acre strip all along the southern line of his lot describing this as "beginning at the southwest corner of Peter Wolfe's lot of land whereon he now lives."

From the tract thus acquired, Aaron R. Wolfe, sole surviving executor of the estate of (his father) the said Peter Wolfe, deceased, gave deed of 3 October 1896 to Charles E. Nicholas of Mendham Township, conveying to him for \$2000 the lot having a frontage of 104 feet on "the road leading from the hotel to the First Presbyterian Church," (Church Street or Hilltop Road) extending westward some 295 feet to the property of the Roman Catholic Church and bounded north by the lots belonging to Ann Boyd, Edwin Langford, and the heirs of the widow Wyckoff, deceased, and south by the lot of lately belonging to Ann C. Tiese, deceased, with "the Old Store House of Peter Wolfe, deceased", being the lot on which stands the house here surveyed.

Finally, by deed of 8 March 1938, Georgia K. Nicholas widow and devisee of Charles E. Nicholas, the grantee last above named (who died 2 January 1932), conveyed all the same property to James P. Richards, Jr.* and Anne A. Richards his wife of Millburn, Essex County, describing it as fronting on "the road leading from Black Horse Tavern to the Mendham Meeting House", in the Township now Borough of Mendham, and they are the owners at the time of this survey, 1939.

*Mr. Richards served as an abstractor and title searcher with the Historic American Buildings Survey 1940.

Reference:

Search of title in Land and Probate
records of Morris County by Cornelius
McPhillips, H.A.B.S. Abstractor

Lewis D. Cook

Supervising Historian 29 January 1940

Approved

Seymour Williams

Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A.

District Officer